

**PRE-PROCESSOR FOR INBOUND SALES ORDER
REQUESTS WITH LINK TO A THIRD PARTY
AVAILABLE TO PROMISE (ATP) SYSTEM**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and apparatus for pre-processing electronic data requests within the
EDI subsystem layer and within the order fulfillment application system. An
order interceptor, third-party Available To Promise (ATP) interface, pseudo-
sales order workbench, and the reject acknowledgment system processes are
provided within the order fulfillment application system to accomplish the pre-
10 processing. The order interceptor performs an asynchronous availability check
before a sales order is posted. The result of the ATP check is stored in an
ESO, and is applied during the posting process with unique user exits. The
result of the ATP check is also used to determine key information about the
sales order, such as the sales organization, and division and distribution
15 channels. The pre-processor uses business rules to determine if the ESO should
be split into multiple documents for requests satisfied across multiple sales
areas. The Workbench provides a customer purchase order view of the ESO
that looks, feels and behaves like actual order entry screens. The Workbench
also displays messages generated from the pre-processor describing why the
20 ESO was held for review. After the condition is corrected the Workbench
re-executes the ESO pre-processor. This continues until all messages are
corrected or marked reviewed. The supplier can decide to either accept the
request, reject the request or accept individual line items.

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